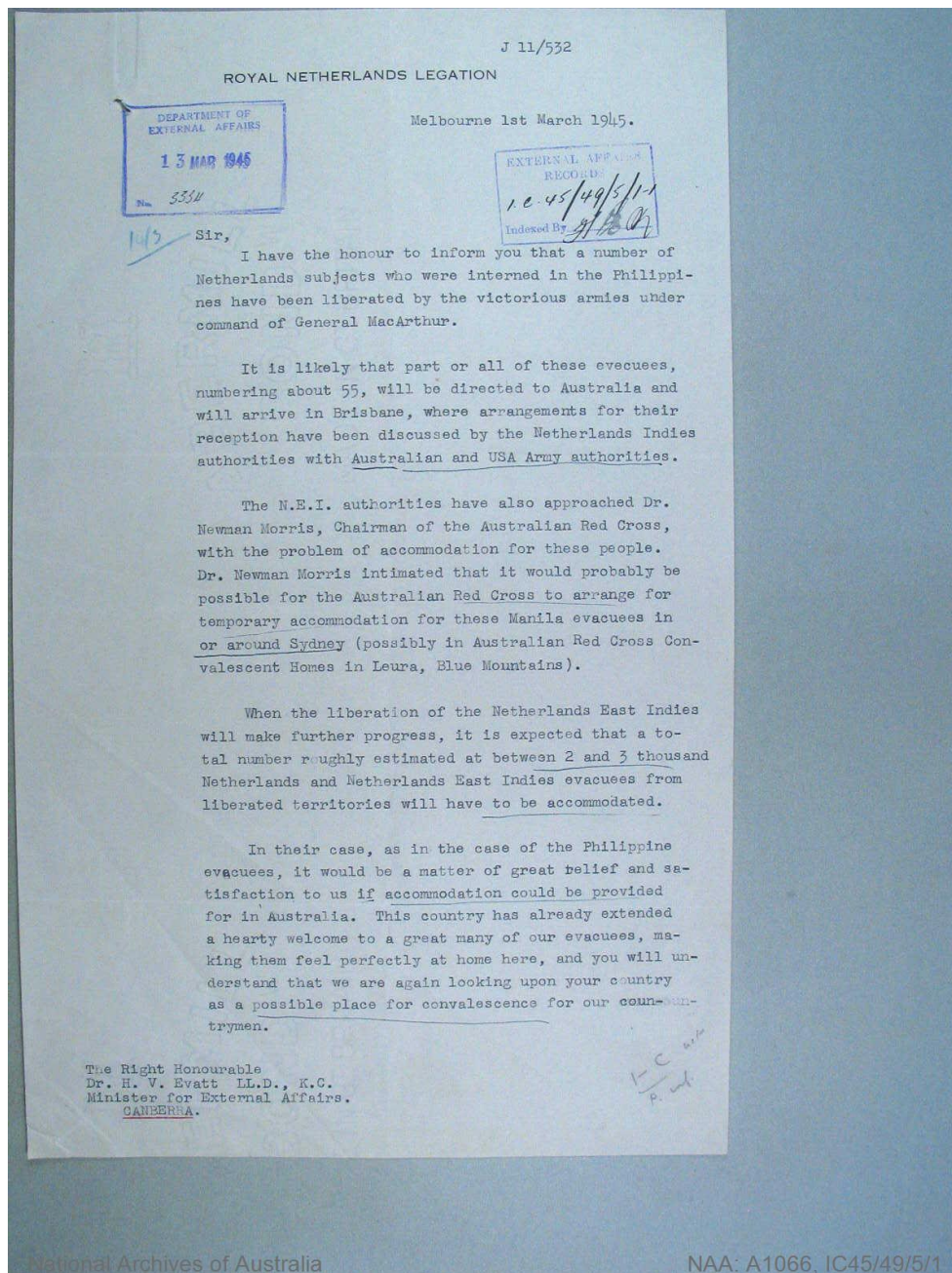


NAA File. Series A1066, Item 189323, Netherlands Evacuees from Netherlands East Indies. Admission and Accommodation. 1945-1945.

Initial documents about evacuees from NEI and the likely hood of more coming to Australia as MacArthur frees more. Estimate of 2-3 thousand Netherlands and NEI evacuees from liberated territories are predicted to need accommodation in Australia.

This letter discusses the need for accommodation for about 55 evacuees from the Philippines.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Box 46, G.P.O., CANBERRA, A.C.T.
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CANBERRA 259; 620; 8814.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"COMPOSITELY."
CANBERRA, A.C.T.
Ref. NO. 10925/89

SECURITY SERVICE

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
1 C. 45/49/5/1-3
Indexed By: [Signature]

Canberra, A.C.T., 17th April, 1945.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
19 APR 1945
No. 5875

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

I refer to the memorandum from His Excellency, Baron F.C. van Aerssen Beyeren van Voshol, M.W.O., to the Right Hon. H.V. Evatt, LL.D., K.C., dated 1st March, 1945, relative to accommodation in Australia of an estimated two to three thousand Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories.

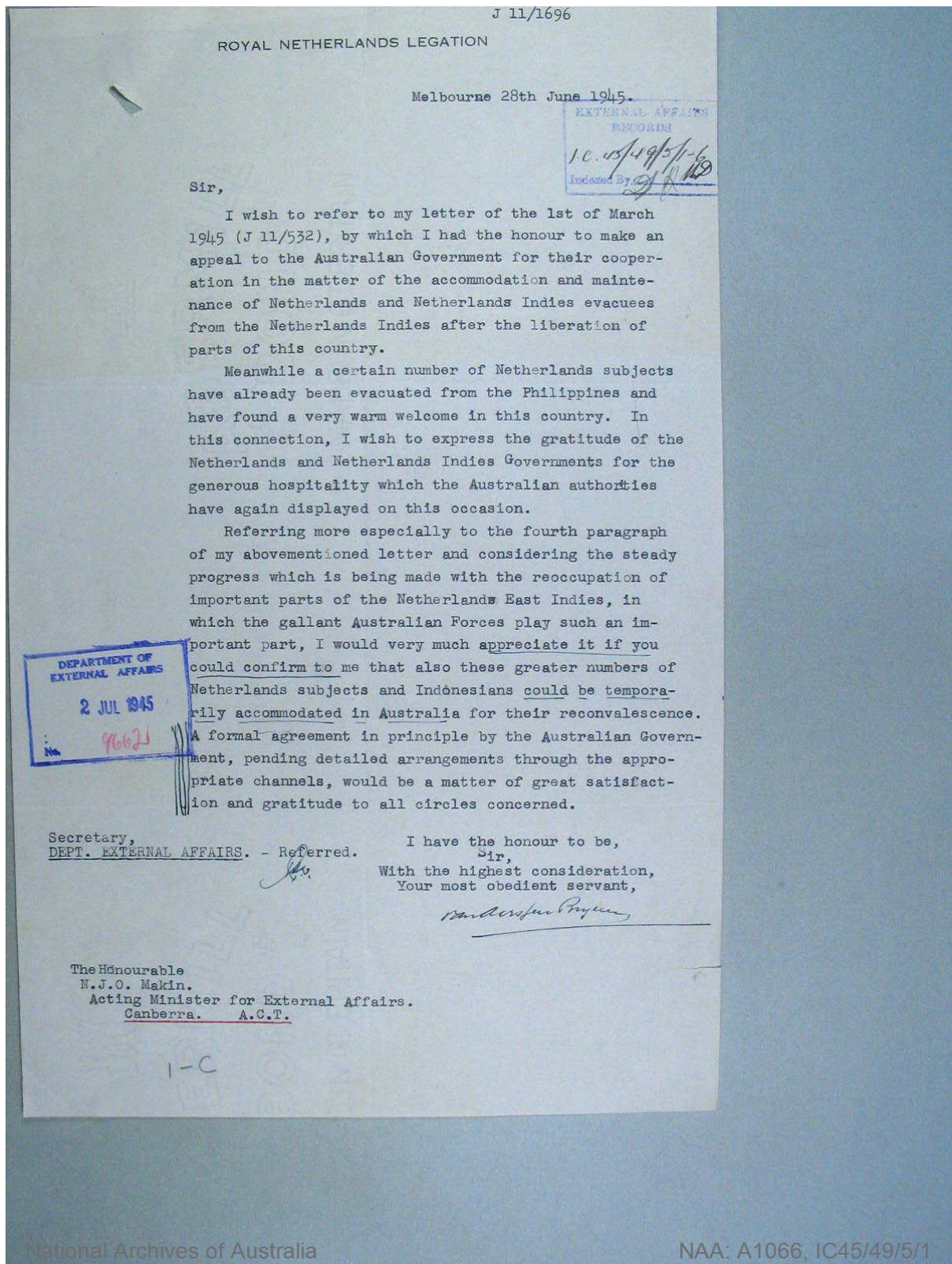
If the Commonwealth Government agrees in principle to accommodate the evacuees and there is set up a working committee consisting of Australian and Netherlands or Netherlands East Indies officials to handle the problem, I should like representation.

It appears to me necessary from the security angle that, irrespective of the procedure which may be adopted to handle the problem, this Service should be supplied with the known particulars of all evacuees admitted to the Commonwealth.

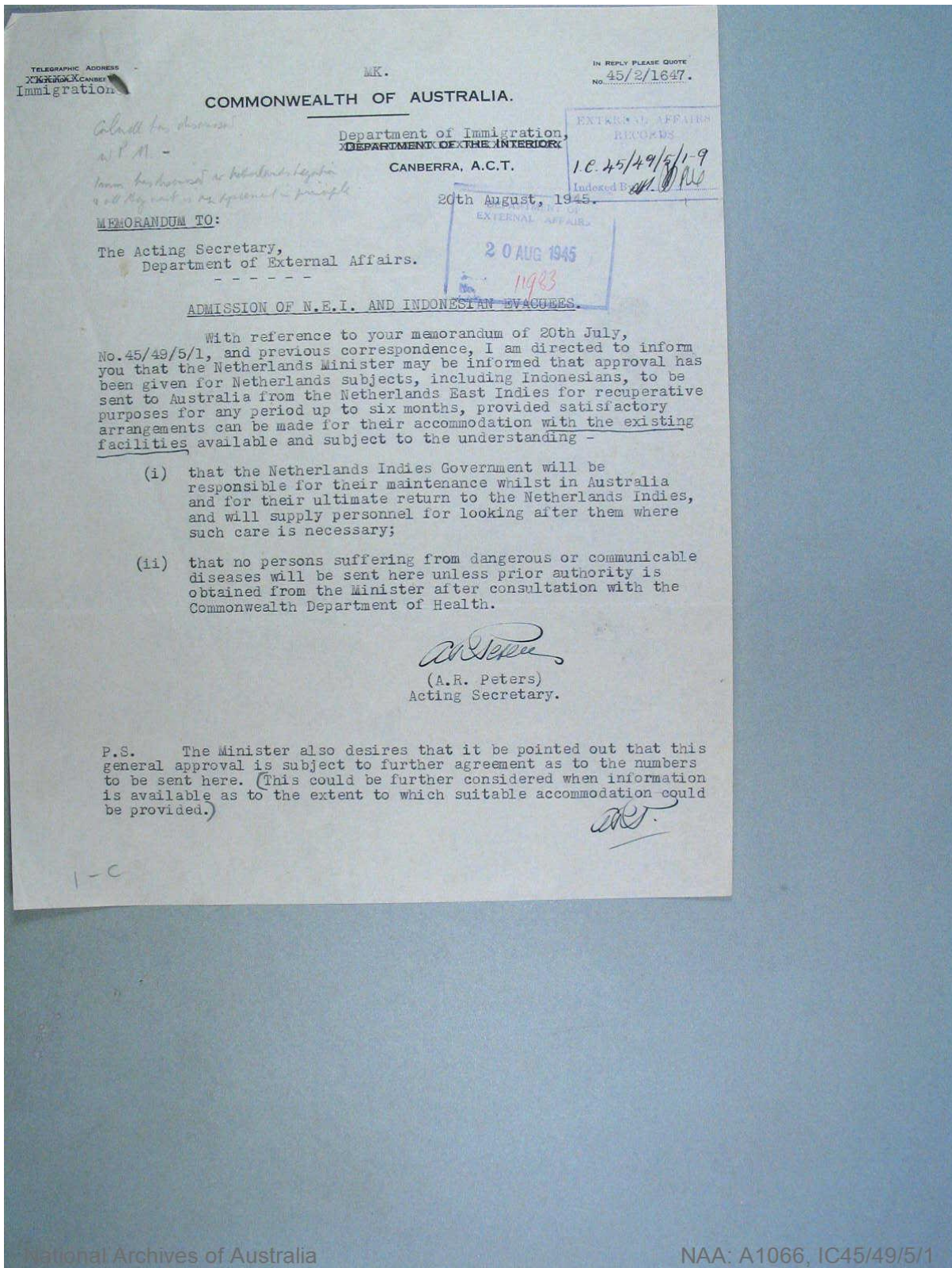
[Signature]
(W. B. SIMPSON.)
Director General of Security.

1.C. 45/49/5/1-1
Original Simpson advised that in view of present circumstances, if they register under the Nat. Sec. (Alien Control) Regs. on arrival that all Security Service now require.
1-C/P to see *24 Aug*
1945

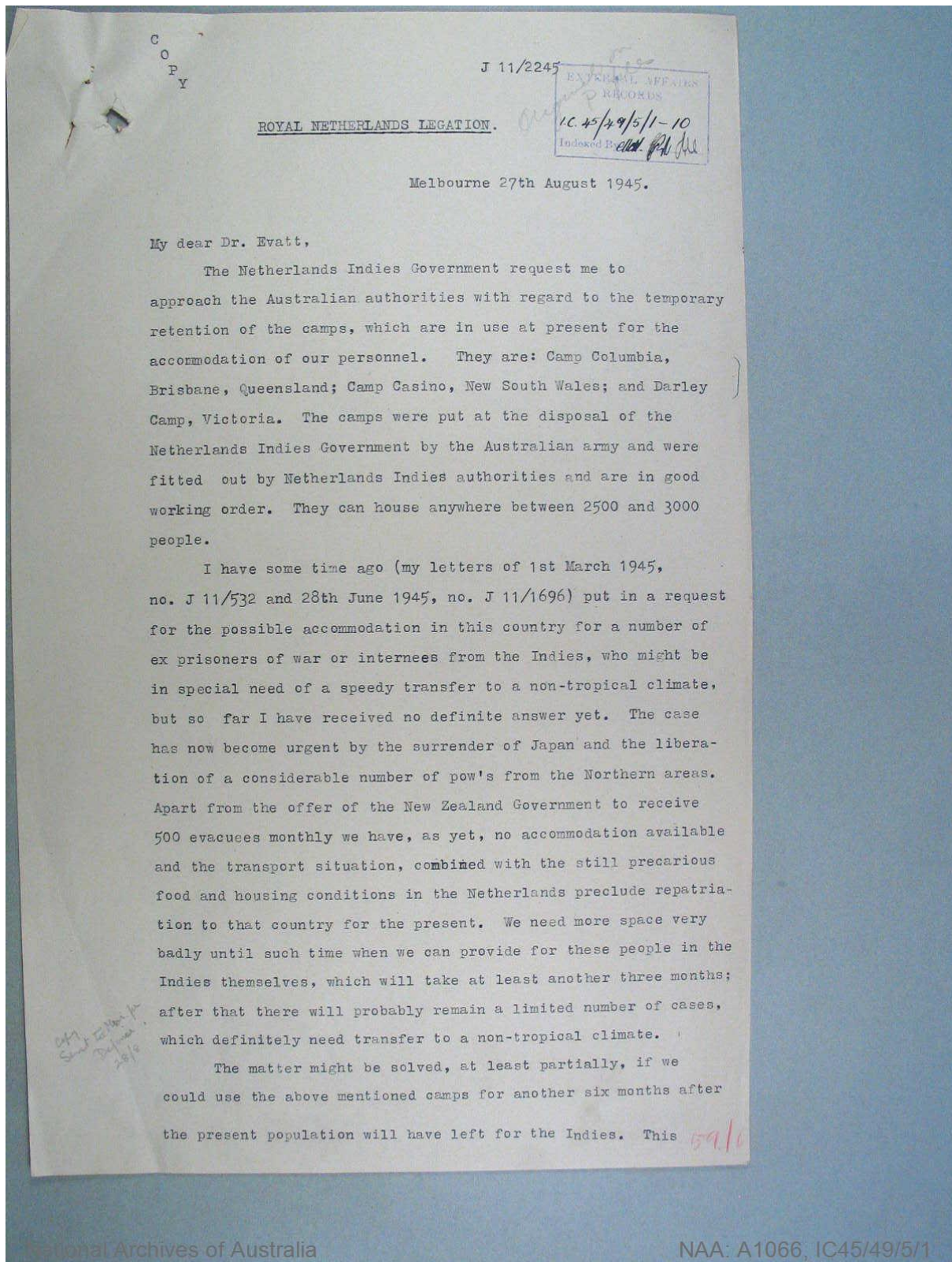
Thanks to the Aus. Government for accommodating the evacuees mentioned previously, and wondering about whether they could accommodate the other 2-3k mentioned earlier



Aus. Gov. confirming both Netherlands and Indonesian evacuees will be accommodated



NEI Gov. temporary retention of camps: Camp Columbia, Brisbane. Camp Casino, NSW and Darley Camp, Victoria. More about accommodation for evacuees - Japan has surrendered but there is concern that some need to recover in a non-tropical climate



C
O
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Y

J 11/2245

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

EXTRANEAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
I.C. 45/49/5/1-10
Indexed By *[Signature]*

Melbourne 27th August 1945.

My dear Dr. Evatt,

The Netherlands Indies Government request me to approach the Australian authorities with regard to the temporary retention of the camps, which are in use at present for the accommodation of our personnel. They are: Camp Columbia, Brisbane, Queensland; Camp Casino, New South Wales; and Darley Camp, Victoria. The camps were put at the disposal of the Netherlands Indies Government by the Australian army and were fitted out by Netherlands Indies authorities and are in good working order. They can house anywhere between 2500 and 3000 people.

I have some time ago (my letters of 1st March 1945, no. J 11/532 and 28th June 1945, no. J 11/1696) put in a request for the possible accommodation in this country for a number of ex prisoners of war or internees from the Indies, who might be in special need of a speedy transfer to a non-tropical climate, but so far I have received no definite answer yet. The case has now become urgent by the surrender of Japan and the liberation of a considerable number of pow's from the Northern areas. Apart from the offer of the New Zealand Government to receive 500 evacuees monthly we have, as yet, no accommodation available and the transport situation, combined with the still precarious food and housing conditions in the Netherlands preclude repatriation to that country for the present. We need more space very badly until such time when we can provide for these people in the Indies themselves, which will take at least another three months; after that there will probably remain a limited number of cases, which definitely need transfer to a non-tropical climate.

The matter might be solved, at least partially, if we could use the above mentioned camps for another six months after the present population will have left for the Indies. This 5910

would, however, necessitate the cooperation of the Commonwealth Government.

In the first place we would need the Commonwealth Government's consent to retain the use of the camps for that period. I trust this will meet with no particular difficulties.

In the second place we would have to be granted admission for the evacuees, which would imply the provision of food and, possibly, some clothing. We will try to take care of the last-mentioned item as much as possible out of the stocks for relief and rehabilitation acquired for the Indies in general, but it might be helpful if some additional clothing could be bought in this country. As the period under discussion would co-incide with spring and summer this should not cause much trouble.

In the third place, however, our present man-power situation makes it absolutely essential that we should get assistance in the servicing of the camps. Our present personnel is urgently needed in the Indies, or consists of Indonesians who - very understandably - are pressing for repatriation after three and a half years of exile, and who could not be left here when the others leave. I understand it would take not more than 500 Australian personnel to take care of this problem; they might either be army service personnel or be engaged on a civilian contract. Moreover it is possible that, after some time, we would be able to provide at least part of the staff out of the evacuees themselves. We would in any case provide a nucleus for the organization and the command of the camps.

I would highly appreciate it if a rapid decision could be obtained, and would thank you for an early reply.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) VAN AERSEEN BEYREN.

The Right Honourable Dr. H.V. Evatt, LL.D., K.C.,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA.